



River Dart Spawning

1992

The first redds were seen on the evening of Wed 4 November when I noted the following:

Lower Cherrybrook Bridge	2 S.T redds + 1 S.T
Runnage Bridge	5 S.T redds
Bellever	10 S.T redds + many fish
Pizwell	9 S.T redds + many fish

The river at the time was dropping after heavy rain on the 2 November with the water temp at 7.5°C. More heavy rain on the 9 November to the 11 November interrupted redd counting until the 13 Nov, when during the day I noted the following:

Lower Cherrybrook Bridge	21 S.T redds
Higher Cherrybrook Bridge	12 S.T redds + 4 S.S
Runnage Bridge	15 S.T redds
Bellever	10 S.T redds
Pizwell	19 S.T redds

There had obviously been a fair bit of activity since the previous visit, also some very healthy looking Salmon were seen about to spawn.

On Tue 24 November I took the opportunity to do a count on the East Webburn, results as follows:

Venton to Cockingford	28 S.T redds
Bagpark to Venton	29 S.T redds

I consider these results very satisfying all available gravel was used.

From the 25 Nov to the 3 Dec we saw some very heavy rain which saw the river rise and come out at many locations. It was not until the 10 Dec when then I noted 14 S.S redds on the Cherrybrook below the lower bridge plus approx 25 S.S seen



The 12 December was a cold dry day with the following results:

Blackbrook (Oakery to confluence)	17 S.S redds+4 SS seen
W Dart TwoBridges to Blackbrook	15 S.S redds + 5 S.S
Bellever	6 fresh S.S redds many fish
Pizwell	3 " " " + 2 S.S

The improved gravel performed very well I noted 9 Salmon redds on the gravel in the area of Blackbrook/West Dart confluence.

Kelts

It seems most of the kelts have been flushed out of the system with tremendous amount of rain, but I have seen:

Runnage	One large cock Salmon dead
West Dart	Five dead Salmon plus two just alive
Abbey leat	Three live and two dead Salmon

I wish I could give more information about spawning but the weather put paid to that, but it was not a total disaster.

Mike Maslin Warden (River Dart)

EAST AND WEST DART FROM DARTMEET.

PLUS TRIBUTORYS

AREA covered.



